

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus

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CONYERS INTRODUCES CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PERMIT FOREIGN BORN CITIZENS TO SEEK THE PRESIDENCY

Congressman John Conyers, Jr., issued the following statement regarding his plans to introduce a constitutional amendment allowing foreign born citizens to be eligible for the presidency:

“Today, on the very first day Congress convenes for the 109th session, I will introduce a Constitutional Amendment allowing foreign born persons who have been citizens of the United States for at least 20 years to be eligible for the presidency or vice presidency.

“Article II of the Constitution allows only natural born citizens to be eligible for the Office of President, a restriction I believe whose time has passed. Immigrants have made great contributions to this nation and are an integral thread in our national fabric - they serve in our military, in elected offices, and in positions in service of others. Naturalized citizens deserve every opportunity given to those of us fortunate enough to have been born in this great country, including the chance to lead this nation. The highest office in the land should no longer be reserved for those persons born in the United States.

“I look forward to working with my colleagues in both Houses to ensure that this important issue is given every possible consideration. I do not take amending the Constitution lightly, but in the present case, the cause is just and there is no other legal option available to eliminate this inequity.”

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